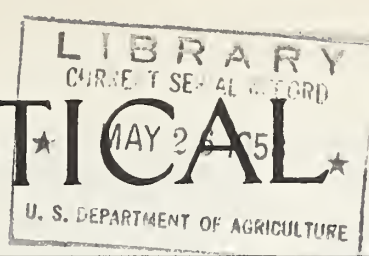


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STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S.D.A.

Washington, D. C.

SS-186

May 19, 1958

Billion Bushel Winter Wheat Crop

Winter wheat made further improvement last month and this year's crop as of May 1 is estimated at more than a billion bushels. Crop Reporting Board's estimate of 1,010 million bushels would be the third largest winter wheat crop of record. It would top last year's crop by 43 percent and the 10-year average by 19 percent. Significant gains from last month were made in the Southern Plains and Western Corn Belt areas, particularly in Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas and Nebraska.

Excellent Prospects for Hay and Pastures

Pasture and hay crop prospects, for the country as a whole, average the best in over 30 years. Pasture condition averages well above a year ago and highest for the date since 1921; hay crop, above last year and highest since 1922.

Hay stocks on farms May 1, at 26½ million tons, are up from last year by 50 percent and 74 percent above average.

Favorable Prospects for Other Crops

Corn, oats, sorghums and soybeans were among other crops which were advancing toward main planting or growth periods in heaviest producing areas with favorable prospects. Farming operations and plant growth were held back by cool, wet weather in much of the Nation but without decisive effects for most crops. Cotton and corn planting was slowed or delayed in much of the South and in some sections may finish extremely late.

Rye Condition Best in Years

Rye condition May 1 averaged highest for the date since 1922 with outlook in four leading States (the Dakotas, Nebraska, and Kansas) best in nearly half a century.

Big Peach Crop

Peach crop in the 9 Southern States, forecast at 15.4 million bushels, is 44 percent more than last year, and 53 percent above average.

May 1 condition of California peaches--both Clingstone and Freestone--was below average; considerable disease and insect infestation reported.

Strawberries, Near Record Crop

Strawberry crop, total for all seasons, is expected to be only slightly less than last year's record production.

Cherries, Plums, Prunes and Pears

California sweet cherries, forecast May 1 at 11,000 tons, is only a little over one-third of production both last year and average. In Oregon

and Washington, condition of sweet cherries is well above last year and average; sour cherries, below last year but close to average.

Plum crop in California, indicated at 57,000 tons, is 30 percent below last year's near average crop. Prunes on May 1 also appeared below last year's production; condition of 60 percent compares with 76 percent year ago and the average of 74 percent.

May 1 condition of all California pears, at 65 percent, is down sharply from the 91 percent a year earlier and the May 1 average condition of 80.

Oranges and Grapefruit, Smaller Crops

Orange crop (including tangerines), 1957-58 season, is estimated at 114 million boxes, 16 percent below last year and 6 percent below average.

The 22.5 million boxes of oranges remaining to be harvested as of May 1 compare with 47.7 million un-harvested on the same date last year. Included in those still to be harvested are 13.6 million boxes of California Valencias, which will

Prices of Farm Products

| Commodity | Average Prices received by farmers | | Effective parity prices |
|--|---------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| | Mar. 15 1958 | Apr. 15 1958 | Apr. 1958 |
| Basic commodities: | | | |
| Cotton, Amer. upland (lb.)..... ct. | 26.05 | 27.93 | 38.59 |
| Wheat (bu.) dol. | 1.96 | 1.95 | 2.42 |
| Rice (100 lb.)..... dol. | 5.04 | 5.17 | 5.97 |
| Corn (bu.) dol. | 1.00 | 1.12 | 1.76 |
| Peanuts (lb.)..... ct. | 10.1 | 10.5 | 13.1 |
| Designated nonbasic commodities: | | | |
| Butterfat in cream (lb.)..... ct. | 59.4 | 57.8 | 75.9 |
| Milk, wholesale (100 lb.)..... dol. | 4.16 | ¹ 3.91 | 5.05 |
| Wool (lb.) ct. | ² 40.7 | ² 37.7 | 70.7 |
| Other nonbasic commodities: | | | |
| Barley (bu.) dol. | .851 | .859 | 1.36 |
| Cottonseed (ton)..... dol. | 51.20 | - | 69.80 |
| Flaxseed (bu.)..... dol. | 2.72 | 2.61 | 4.35 |
| Hay, baled (ton) dol. | 18.50 | 18.20 | 25.80 |
| Oats (bu.) dol. | .616 | .621 | .884 |
| Potatoes (cwt.) dol. | 3.25 | 3.16 | 2.45 |
| Rye (bu.)..... dol. | .966 | .970 | 1.60 |
| Sorghum, grain (100 lb.)..... dol. | 1.69 | 1.77 | 2.66 |
| Soybeans (bu.) dol. | 2.10 | 2.16 | 3.04 |
| Sweetpotatoes (cwt.)..... dol. | 5.52 | 5.85 | 5.51 |
| Oranges, on tree (box)..... dol. | 2.08 | 3.73 | 2.39 |
| Apples, for fresh use (bu.) dol. | 2.46 | 3.11 | 3.09 |
| Beef cattle (100 lb.)..... dol. | 21.70 | 22.20 | 23.30 |
| Calves (100 lb.)..... dol. | 24.00 | 24.40 | 25.60 |
| Hogs (100 lb.)..... dol. | 20.30 | 20.20 | 22.10 |
| Lambs (100 lb.)..... dol. | 21.50 | 21.00 | 26.00 |
| Chickens, all (lb.) ct. | 20.8 | 19.0 | 28.6 |
| Eggs (dozen) ct. | 40.8 | 37.4 | 48.7 |

¹ Preliminary

² Does not include incentive payment to bring season average return to 62 cents per pound.

be harvested mostly in the summer and fall. Total production of Valencias is estimated at 47.4 million boxes, down from last year by 21 percent, and 20 percent below average.

Grapefruit, at 39.8 million boxes, is 11 percent below last year's production and 14 percent below average. Estimates in Texas and Arizona are higher than last year but California and Florida show declines. Remaining to be harvested May 1 were 3.2 million boxes compared with 7.8 million a year earlier.

California lemons, at 16.2 million boxes, were about the same as last year's crop but would top average by 24 percent.

Smaller Crops of Spring Potatoes

Early spring potato crop in Florida and Texas is forecast at 3,904,000 hundredweight. This is up 4 percent from month-ago estimate but is 11 percent less than last year.

Late spring crop, at 29,287,000 cwt. is down from last year by 3 percent but is 10 percent

Statistical Series of Interest to Agriculture

| Item | 1957 | | 1958 | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | Apr. | Yr. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. |
| | <i>Mil.</i> | <i>Mil.</i> | <i>Mil.</i> | <i>Mil.</i> | <i>Mil.</i> |
| Nonfarm employment, (civilian) ¹ | 58.5 | 58.8 | 57.2 | 57.2 | 57.3 |
| Farm Employment..... | 7.5 | 7.6 | 5.4 | 6.2 | 7.4 |
| Family..... | 5.9 | 5.8 | 4.5 | 5.0 | 5.8 |
| Hired..... | 1.5 | 1.8 | 1.0 | 1.2 | 1.6 |
| Index numbers (1947-49 = 100) | | | | | |
| Industrial production ² | 144 | 143 | 130 | 128 | 126 |
| Total personal income payments ³ | 169 | 170 | 169 | 169 | - |
| Weekly factory earnings..... | 162 | 163 | 145 | 144 | 140 |
| Average earnings of factory workers, per worker ⁴ | 154 | 156 | 152 | 154 | 153 |
| Wholesale prices, all commodities..... | 117 | 118 | 119 | 120 | 119 |
| Farm commodities..... | 91 | 91 | 96 | 100 | 98 |
| Food, processed..... | 104 | 106 | 110 | 111 | 111 |
| Consumer price index ⁴ | 119 | 120 | 122 | 123 | - |
| Food..... | 114 | 115 | 119 | 121 | - |
| Index numbers (1910-14 = 100) | | | | | |
| Prices received by farmers..... | 242 | 242 | 252 | 263 | 266 |
| Crops..... | 242 | 234 | 229 | 244 | 257 |
| Food grains..... | 233 | 225 | 219 | 224 | 223 |
| Feed grains and hay..... | 180 | 170 | 148 | 152 | 162 |
| Cotton..... | 258 | 264 | 211 | 220 | 236 |
| Tobacco..... | 459 | 465 | 475 | 475 | 475 |
| Oil bearing crops..... | 264 | 253 | 229 | 234 | 237 |
| Fruit..... | 237 | 214 | 200 | 228 | 271 |
| Vegetables for fresh market..... | 294 | 256 | 376 | 396 | 416 |
| Livestock and products..... | 242 | 249 | 273 | 280 | 275 |
| Meat animals..... | 275 | 278 | 324 | 336 | 339 |
| Dairy products..... | 253 | 263 | 266 | 261 | 249 |
| Poultry and eggs..... | 150 | 162 | 169 | 187 | 172 |
| Prices paid by farmers..... | | | | | |
| All commodities..... | 273 | 273 | 278 | 281 | 282 |
| Used in living..... | 285 | 286 | 290 | 293 | 293 |
| Used in production..... | 259 | 258 | 265 | 269 | 271 |
| Commodities, interest, taxes, and wage rates (parity index)..... | 296 | 296 | 302 | 304 | 306 |
| Farm wage rates, seasonally adjusted..... | 562 | 558 | 567 | 567 | 567 |
| Parity ratio (prices received to parity index)..... | 82 | 82 | 83 | 87 | 87 |

¹ Bureau of the Census.

² Federal Reserve Board.

³ Department of Commerce.

⁴ Bureau of Labor Statistics.

above the 1949-56 average. California with about two-thirds of the latespring crop will harvest about 18,980,000 cwt., which is about 7 percent less than last year's production in that State.

Early summer acreage, estimated at 103,800 acres, is up about 3 percent from last year but well below the 1949-56 average of 122,000 acres.

Last Year's Tobacco Crop, Revised Estimates

Tobacco production in 1957, all types, is now estimated at 1,661 million pounds (revised estimate). This is only about 20 million pounds or 1.2 percent below the December estimate. Total 1957 production was about 24 percent smaller than the 2,176 million pounds produced in 1956. Value of production of last year's crop is set at \$935 million with an average price of 56.3 cents per pound. This compares with \$1,169 million and an average of 53.7 cents per pound in 1956.

The 1957 production of flue-cured, at 975 million pounds, was 31 percent less than the 1956 crop; burley, at 488 million pounds, was down nearly 4 percent from the previous crop; fire-cured, at 50.5 million pounds, was 28 percent below the previous year; and Southern Maryland, type 32, at 31.4 million pounds, compared with 36.5 million pounds in 1956.

Livestock and Livestock Products

| Item | Unit | Jan. - Mar. 1958 | Jan. - Mar. 1958 |
|---|------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <u>Dairy Production</u> | | | |
| Milk..... | Bil. lb. | ¹ 41.5 | ¹ 41.6 |
| Evaporated whole milk..... | Mil. lb. | 545.4 | 455.9 |
| Dry nonfat milk solids (for human food)..... | Mil. lb. | 412.6 | 443.5 |
| Butter, creamery..... | Mil. lb. | 351.8 | 359.9 |
| Cheese, American..... | Mil. lb. | 216.4 | 212.6 |
| Ice cream..... | Mil. gal. | 132.3 | 131.8 |
| <u>Poultry Production</u> | | | |
| Eggs..... | Billions | ¹ 21.8 | ¹ 21.0 |
| Poultry meat ² | Mil. lb. | 938 | 994 |
| Canned poultry..... | Mil. lb. | 50.0 | 63.4 |
| Liquid egg..... | Mil. lb. | 116.3 | 98.9 |
| Dried egg (egg solids)..... | Mil. lb. | 7.6 | 5.4 |
| Frozen egg..... | Mil. lb. | 79.6 | 72.1 |
| Chicks hatched, total ³ | Millions | 586 | 636 |
| Chicks hatched, broiler ³ | Millions | 390 | 425 |
| Poults hatched ³ : | | | |
| Heavy breeds..... | Millions | 21.2 | 17.5 |
| Light breeds..... | Millions | 3.0 | 2.9 |
| <u>Meat Production ²</u> (dressed weight) | | | |
| Beef..... | Mil. lb. | 3,507 | 3,157 |
| Veal..... | Mil. lb. | 347 | 284 |
| Pork..... | Mil. lb. | 2,522 | 2,375 |
| Lamb and mutton..... | Mil. lb. | 188 | 168 |
| Total red meat..... | Mil. lb. | 6,564 | 5,984 |
| <u>Slaughter ²</u> | | | |
| Cattle..... | 1,000 head | 6,520 | 5,811 |
| Calves..... | 1,000 head | 3,010 | 2,547 |
| Hogs..... | 1,000 head | 19,256 | 17,928 |
| Sheep and lambs..... | 1,000 head | 3,852 | 3,365 |

¹ January - April

² Commercial; excludes farm slaughter.

³ By commercial hatcheries.

Smaller Production of Maple Sirup

The 1958 production of maple sirup, at 1,516,000 gallons, is about 17 percent less than that produced during the 1957 season. Estimate includes that made into sugar for home use or local sale.

The estimated 5,075,000 trees tapped by maple sirup producers this year were 12 percent fewer than the 5,752,000 tapped last year... continuation of the downward trend in evidence since 1947.

Spring Vegetables Near Average Crop

Spring vegetable and melon production is expected to be 1 percent above 1957, mainly due to increased acreage. Sizeable production increases for watermelons, onions, sweet corn, cantaloups and cucumbers; declines in production of lettuce, cabbage, celery, carrots and broccoli. Compared with the average, however, this year's production is smaller by about 1 percent.

Milk Production Little Change; Less Per Capita

The 11.4 billion pounds of milk produced in April was practically the same as a year earlier but topped the 1947-56 average for the month by 8 percent. On a per capita basis, the 2.19 pounds of milk daily to each person in the U. S. was down 2 percent from a year ago and 4 percent below the April average.

Production first 4 months of this year was 41.6 billion pounds compared with 41.5 billion in the same period last year.

Smaller Egg Production--Fewer Hens

Hens laid 5.5 billion eggs in April, down 3 percent from a year earlier and the lowest April production since 1941... less than a year earlier in all regions except the West where production was up 4 percent.

Number of layers on May 1 totaled 290,004,000 compared with 298,185,000 same date last year, a decrease of 3 percent. Numbers were down from a year ago in all regions except the South Atlantic and the West.

Higher Prices for Poultry and Eggs

Producers averaged 37.4 cents a dozen for eggs in mid-April compared with 30.4 cents in mid-April last year. Farm chickens brought producers an average of 16.7 cents per pound, liveweight and broilers 19.3 cents, compared with 14.3 cents and 18.8 cents respectively in mid-April last year. Turkeys brought farmers an average of 26.5 cents per pound liveweight in mid-April compared with 25.8 cents a year earlier.

Feeding More Favorable for Poultrymen

The egg-feed, broiler-feed, farm chicken-feed and turkey-feed price relationships were all more favorable to producers in mid-April than a year earlier. Average cost of the farm poultry ration mid-April was \$3.47 compared with \$3.54 a year earlier.

More Poultry Used in Canning

The 18.3 million pounds (ready-to-cook weight) of poultry used in canning and other processed foods in March was an increase of 11 percent

over the 16.4 million pounds so used in the same month last year.

Land Values Up 1 Percent

Average value of farm real estate per acre advanced 1% to 156 (1947-49 = 100) in 4 months ended March 1. This was 6% above March 1, 1957, and record high. Values increased 2% or more in 25 States and were essentially unchanged in rest. Largest increase, 7% occurred in Fla. Values were at record high levels in 29 States on March 1.

CURRENT ESTIMATES

Cash Receipts From Farm Marketings by States, March 1958¹

| State | Livestock and products | Crops | Total |
|---------------------|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | 1,000 dollars | 1,000 dollars | 1,000 dollars |
| Maine | 9,603 | 22,277 | 31,880 |
| New Hampshire..... | 4,826 | 974 | 5,800 |
| Vermont..... | 8,449 | 1,886 | 10,335 |
| Massachusetts..... | 9,806 | 4,033 | 13,839 |
| Rhode Island..... | 1,213 | 477 | 1,690 |
| Connecticut..... | 9,542 | 6,271 | 15,813 |
| New York..... | 54,089 | 16,173 | 70,262 |
| New Jersey..... | 18,216 | 4,969 | 23,185 |
| Pennsylvania..... | 52,120 | 15,850 | 67,970 |
| Ohio..... | 57,422 | 16,969 | 74,391 |
| Indiana..... | 60,704 | 19,686 | 80,390 |
| Illinois..... | 97,331 | 61,677 | 159,008 |
| Michigan..... | 34,426 | 13,601 | 48,027 |
| Wisconsin..... | 85,124 | 8,137 | 93,261 |
| Minnesota..... | 86,072 | 24,769 | 110,841 |
| Iowa..... | 151,564 | 39,290 | 190,854 |
| Missouri..... | 57,696 | 9,299 | 66,995 |
| North Dakota..... | 13,797 | 12,041 | 25,838 |
| South Dakota..... | 32,584 | 10,498 | 43,082 |
| Nebraska..... | 52,654 | 32,836 | 85,490 |
| Kansas..... | 43,239 | 18,586 | 61,825 |
| Delaware..... | 8,533 | 867 | 9,400 |
| Maryland..... | 14,869 | 2,035 | 16,904 |
| Virginia..... | 18,233 | 5,390 | 23,623 |
| West Virginia..... | 6,148 | 1,404 | 7,552 |
| North Carolina..... | 22,335 | 11,157 | 33,492 |
| South Carolina..... | 8,232 | 4,182 | 12,414 |
| Georgia..... | 30,593 | 6,932 | 37,525 |
| Florida..... | 14,274 | 45,191 | 59,465 |
| Kentucky..... | 20,273 | 2,954 | 23,227 |
| Tennessee..... | 18,288 | 5,432 | 23,720 |
| Alabama..... | 19,279 | 5,423 | 24,702 |
| Mississippi..... | 15,297 | 5,839 | 21,136 |
| Arkansas..... | 14,266 | 8,664 | 22,930 |
| Louisiana..... | 10,484 | 4,046 | 14,530 |
| Oklahoma..... | 26,816 | 3,663 | 30,479 |
| Texas..... | 81,858 | 21,459 | 103,317 |
| Montana..... | 13,071 | 10,449 | 23,520 |
| Idaho..... | 14,420 | 12,875 | 27,295 |
| Wyoming..... | 4,620 | 1,034 | 5,654 |
| Colorado..... | 25,804 | 9,946 | 35,750 |
| New Mexico..... | 9,143 | 2,332 | 11,475 |
| Arizona..... | 12,108 | 21,917 | 34,025 |
| Utah..... | 8,380 | 1,889 | 10,269 |
| Nevada..... | 3,190 | 544 | 3,734 |
| Washington..... | 16,754 | 18,649 | 35,403 |
| Oregon..... | 12,865 | 8,903 | 21,768 |
| California..... | 87,859 | 65,937 | 153,796 |
| United States..... | 1,478,469 | 629,412 | 2,107,881 |

¹ All figures represent sales of farm products, plus Commodity Credit loans reported during the month minus Commodity Credit loans repaid during the month. For comparisons of cash receipts with earlier months and years, see issues of the Farm Income Situation.

Cash Receipts from Farming and Index of Volume of Farm Marketings, United States¹

| | March 1958 | April 1958 ² |
|---|------------------|----------------------------|
| CASH RECEIPTS: | <i>Mil. dol.</i> | <i>Mil. dol.</i> |
| Total marketings and CCC loans ³ | 2,108 | 2,100 |
| Livestock and products..... | 1,478 | 1,500 |
| Meat animals..... | 762 | |
| Dairy products..... | 406 | |
| Poultry and eggs..... | 276 | |
| Other..... | 34 | |
| Crops..... | 630 | 600 |
| Food grains..... | 41 | |
| Feed crops..... | 202 | |
| Cotton (lint and seed)..... | 22 | |
| Oil-bearing crops..... | 52 | |
| Tobacco..... | 9 | |
| Vegetables..... | 135 | |
| Fruits and tree nuts..... | 70 | |
| Other..... | 99 | |
| Government payments..... | 25 | |
| Grand total..... | 2,133 | |
| VOLUME OF FARM MARKETINGS: | 1947-49 = 100 | |
| All commodities..... | 87 | 87 |
| Livestock and products..... | 114 | 120 |
| Crops..... | 52 | 44 |

¹For comparison with earlier months and years, see issues of the Farm Income Situation. ²Preliminary. ³Receipts from loans represent value of loans minus value of redemptions during the month.

Farm-Retail Price Spreads

Farm-Retail Spread and Farmer's Share of the Consumer's Dollar for Market Basket of Farm-food Products

| Year and month | Retail cost ¹ | Farm value ² | Farm-retail spread | Farmer's share |
|--------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| 1957 average..... | 1,007 | 400 | 607 | 40 |
| 1957 March..... | 981 | 387 | 594 | 39 |
| 1958 February..... | 1,049 | 430 | 619 | 41 |
| 1958 March..... | 1,076 | 457 | 619 | 42 |

¹Retail cost of average quantities of farm foods purchased per urban wage-earner and clerical-worker family in 1952, calculated from retail prices collected by Bureau of Labor Statistics.

²Payment to farmers for equivalent quantities of farm produce minus imputed value of byproducts obtained in processing.

Increase in Poultry Certified

Poultry certified under Federal Inspection during March totaled 80,074,000 pounds, ready-to-cook weight, compared with 74,962,000 pounds in March 1957. Of this total, 72,819,000 pounds were chickens, 6,124,000 pounds were turkeys, and 1,131,000 pounds were other poultry. Comparable figures a year earlier were chickens, 65.7 million pounds; turkeys, 8.4 million pounds; other poultry, 0.8 million pounds.

Rise in Farm Employment; Hired Workers up 5% from Year Ago

Showing a season increase of 20 percent from a month earlier, 7,368,000 persons were at work on farms in late April. This, however, compared with 7,455,000 a year earlier and means a decline of 1 percent from the 12-month period.

Of the total 7,368,000 workers, about 5 3/4 million were farm operators and unpaid members of their families. The remaining 1,592,000 or 22 percent, were hired workers. Hired workers showed the sharpest increase from a month earlier and at this level the number of hired farm laborers was 5 percent greater than a year earlier.

Agriculture - Washington